

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR

April 2, 2004

DNR RECEIVES MORE THAN 100 SAG APPLICATIONS REQUESTING OVER \$4 MILLION

The RR Program received more than 100 applications for the Brownfields Site Assessment Grant (SAG) Program by the Feb. 13 deadline. This is a record number of applicants with a record fiscal request totaling \$4.4 million in funding. As in previous state budgets, \$1.7 million is available for distribution this fiscal year (2003-2004) and an additional \$1.7 million will be available next fiscal year. The RR Program hopes to complete its review of the applications before June first. This is the fifth round of SAG grants, created in 1999 by the State Legislature based upon recommendations from the Brownfields Study Group. The funding has helped communities begin investigation and cleanup at 554 acres in 84 communities since 2000. These activities included more than 210 site assessments and investigations, the removal of 162 underground storage tanks and the demolition of nearly 200 structures and buildings. For this round, RR received 25 applications for large grants, totaling \$2.1 million in funding, and 80 small grant applications totaling \$2.3 million in funding. For more information about SAG, please see our web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm>. You'll find a complete list of round 5 applicants under "program highlights". If you have questions, you may contact Michael Prager at 608-261-4927, or michael.prager@dnr.state.wi.us.

RR PROGRAM'S 2002-2003 ANNUAL REPORT IS HERE!

The Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program has completed its first on-line Annual Report! With budget and staff cuts affecting every aspect of the agency, the RR Program decided to save the costs of printing a full-color, higher-end publication and reach directly to its customers through the Internet. Each section of this year's annual report has a link to the stories you'll want to read about - spill prevention and cleanup, brownfields, state-funded cleanups and more! To see our Report, please click on the following link:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR718.pdf> If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Savagian at 608-261-6422, or andrew.savagian@dnr.state.wi.us.

REGIONAL CONSULTANT DAYS

Following Northeast Region's successful Consultant Day on March 31, other regional RR Program offices are also planning Consultant Days. West Central Region has scheduled four local Consultant Days, all running from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The sessions will be: May 4 at the DNR Service Center in Eau Claire, 1300 West Clairemont Avenue; May 5 at the DNR Service Center in Baldwin, 890 Spruce Street; May 25 at the UW-Stevens Point University Center, room 207, 1015 Reserve Street; and May 26 at the DNR Service Center in La Crosse, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road. Agenda topics and registration materials are available at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/general/calendar.htm>. For additional information, please contact Mae Willkom at 715-839-3748, or mae.willkom@dnr.state.wi.us. South Central Region is planning a Consultant Day in June, and Southeast Region expects to hold one in the fall. Northern Region is also planning a Consultant Day.

APRIL 13-15 TOOLS FOR DEALS CONFERENCE

RTM Communications is holding a "Contaminated Property Transactions – Tools for Deals" seminar in Washington D.C. in April 13 – 15. Attendees can select a 3-day \$998 rate, a 2-day \$899 rate or a roundtable only rate of \$349. Continuing legal education credits are available. Registration information and an agenda are available at

<http://www.rtmcomm.com/rtmcomm-web/servlet/proc?pa=conf&sa=showConf&confid=13>

For more information regarding upcoming meetings and conferences, check the RR on-line calendar at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/general/calendar.htm>

MILWAUKEE ORGANIZATION RECEIVES BROWNFIELD JOB TRAINING GRANT

The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 provides four types of competitive federal grants: brownfield assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Job training grants provide training for residents of communities

affected by brownfields to prepare them for employment in the assessment and cleanup of brownfields. EPA has selected the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) for a \$150,000 job training grant. The MCSC plans to graduate 56 students and guarantee at least part-time employment. Training will be followed by internships with local environmental employers. MCSC will focus the grant on the Milwaukee Renewal Community, a distressed, predominately African-American community with high unemployment. For more information see <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/reg5job.htm#milwaukee>

DNR FEEDBACK LINE YIELDS COMPLIMENTS

In January DNR established a customer feedback line for the public to report either problems or positive interactions with DNR staff – 608-266-0158. Callers are asked to identify themselves and to provide specific information regarding their concern or situation. As of March 23, the line had yielded 164 calls, with 5 concerns about staff, 14 compliments about staff, and the rest of the calls related to questions about DNR programs. The average time to respond to callers is 5.5 days.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING & FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

The Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) maintains a web site to keep local officials informed about funding options for environmental improvements (e.g., air quality, brownfields, pollution prevention, smart growth, water quality, etc.). The web site also includes regulatory updates and other news of interest to local governments. You can also sign up for LGEAN's free, biweekly e-mail update service at <http://www.lgean.org/html/updateservice.cfm>

This listserv operates by self-subscription only.

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To unsubscribe send an e-mail to: majordomo@badger.state.wi.us. Type this in the body of the message: unsubscribe rr, followed by the e-mail address you originally used to subscribe. Be sure your signature block is turned off. An archive of the "RR News from DNR" is located at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/general/listserv.html>